

By: MARK ZIMMARO

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EVESHAM - Local residents had the opportunity to meet and greet their new congressman Saturday afternoon in the confines of the township library.

John Adler, D-3rd of Cherry Hill, made the first of what he hopes will be one of many local public appearances he is calling the "Congress on Your Corner Tour."

"It's so helpful for me to be able to hear the concerns of people on a local level and a national level," said Adler, who was sworn in as congressman Jan. 6. "Some people were talking about local issues such as the Marlton Circle and others were talking about national concerns like fixing the credit markets. It was very informative."

Adler was elected in November to represent the 3rd Congressional District. He replaced U.S. Rep. Jim Saxton of Mount Holly, who retired after 24 years in Congress. The district is made up of large parts of Burlington and Ocean counties plus Adler's hometown of Cherry Hill. Adler is the first Democrat to serve in the seat in more than 100 years.

On Saturday, residents were able to meet one-on-one with Adler to discuss their concerns or simply shake hands and meet their new representative.

"(Adler) seemed to listen quite extensively," said William Wildman, an Evesham resident for 48 years. "I'm not usually one to talk to politicians, but he was very polite and respectful. I felt he meant what he said. I don't know if anything will happen but he seemed like he wanted to see things from all angles."

According to Mary Campbell, who works for Adler as the director of outreach, the congressman is hoping to make public visits frequently at various places during his term.

"We're hoping for maybe twice a month in places all over the district," Campbell said. "He is here to answer questions and listen to concerns. It's what we call a mobile office."

Twenty-five to 30 residents took advantage of the opportunity as Adler sat behind a table and met with residents for about two hours. Several of the residents had concerns about the slumping economy and were relieved that they could relay their concerns face to face.

"It's like the sports analogy that once a team starts to falter, you start seeing the owner a little bit more," said Ed McLaughlin of Evesham. "With the economy being so bad, a lot of politicians are becoming more available to people. It worked for (President-elect Barack) Obama. More politicians are doing events for individuals."

Adler saw it as an opportunity to make himself available to the public.

"The goal was to make it convenient for people to talk to me about issues and to talk to people in my office," Adler said. "This was our first Congress on Your Corner and I think it went very well and there will be many, many more. I'm going to do it as often as I can."